

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

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Portsmouth Receives Help Determining Best Options for Wetland Mitigation

Last week the Portsmouth Conservation Commission received a valuable report that described nine areas in the City that would benefit greatly from wetland restoration, creation, or upland protection. The report, entitled “Freshwater Wetland Mitigation Inventory for Portsmouth, NH”, is a credible resource for the Commission to refer to when a proposed development impacts wetlands in the City.

Wetland mitigation is required when development, such as a new building or an expansion to a parking lot, impacts existing wetlands. It is the responsibility of the developer to “replace” the lost wetland by creating or restoring another wetland of equal ecological value or by protecting upland areas around a wetland that will help maintain good water quality in the system.

“Many times a developer will suggest that a mitigation project be located on the building site, which often is not the best ecological ‘bang for the buck’” notes Dave Kellam, a Principal Planner with the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, which funded this study. “This inventory provides the Conservation Commission with many mitigation options that an objective scientist has determined would help protect significant natural resources and thus benefit the entire community.”

Scientists from West Environmental and Carex Eco-Sciences conducted the study, with assistance provided by Doucet Survey, Inc. Nineteen communities in the Seacoast were given town-specific reports by the New Hampshire Estuaries Project to encourage strategic mitigation activity that will protect the water quality of the state’s coastal rivers and bays. For more information about the study contact Mark West at 603-659-0416 or westenv@lobo-software.com.

The New Hampshire Estuaries Project is a collaborative program funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency that involves governmental agencies, universities, non-profit organizations, businesses, and the public to protect, enhance and monitor the environmental quality of the state’s coastal bays and rivers. The NHEP Management Plan, project reports and other resources are available at www.nh.gov/nhep.
